

Chief, Industrial Division

19 March 1956

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Aircraft Branch

Russian Participation Zurich Air Show - May 1956

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1. [REDACTED] has reported the following information concerning Soviet participation in the Zurich Air Show to be held 26 and 27 May 1956:

"During a conversation concerning the proposed Zurich Air Show in May, 1956, the Russian [REDACTED] observed, voluntarily, that his country expected to participate in the event. He said the time element precluded participation in the 1955 Geneva Show, but adequate preparations could be made this year. He added that participation in such an international event was a new experience for his country, but that the information gained by Gen. Beletskiev and his group in Geneva in 1955 had been of much value in planning for the Zurich participation. He exhibited no interest in whether or not the USAF would participate in the Zurich Show.

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[REDACTED] went on to say that although the Swiss have not yet been officially notified, the extent of Russian participation had been fairly well determined. He said there would "probably be a MIG-15 acrobatic team, a MIG-17 demonstration, participation by another type of aircraft and a display of precision parachute jumping." [REDACTED] could not or would not identify the "other type of aircraft", but denied it was a transport for the parachutists. He added quickly that it would be a type which has already been shown at Tushino and one which "the U.S. already knows about. One such as the MIG-17."

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2. [REDACTED] stated that the Swiss asked the Russians to show a day fighter, an all-weather fighter, a bomber comparable to the B-47, and a transport. Col. Burris believes that if the Soviets participate in the show they will do so on a "best of show" basis.

3. A feature of the Zurich Air Show is a static display of some of the participating aircraft on the morning of 26 May. The USAF safety regulations prevent the landing of the B-47 at the Zurich airfield; hence, the B-47 would not be on static display. For this reason, if the Soviets decided to display the Badger, they might fly the aircraft from east Germany, fly over Zurich, and return to east Germany. On the other hand, there is a large airfield 4 miles from Zurich which can accommodate both the B-47 and the Badger. It is

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possible that the Soviets would use this airfield to base the Badger if they entered it in the show. This field is a commercial field and as such is open to tourists.

25X1A5a1 4. It is recommended that if the Soviets announce that they are going to display the Badger in the Zurich Air Show and if the plane is going to land in Switzerland, that [REDACTED] 25X1A5a1
[REDACTED], be sent to Switzerland to observe the Badger. [REDACTED] X1A5a1
observations of the manufacturing differences between the Badger and the B-47 would be of great value in estimating the cost of the Badger. 25X1A5a1

5. I/AR will contact USAF to see if they approve of sending [REDACTED] to the air show.

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